

# Downtown Durham Stations

Elizabeth Wilcox

Sent: 10/10/2015 12:10 PM

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I am writing to voice my concern over the proposed location of the downtown Durham Stations. The deletion of station in the heart of downtown is not acceptable. Once the stations were relocated by GoTriangle after it learned that it could no longer be in the NCCR right of way, the stations were distributed in manner that ignores how the light rail will integrate into Downtown and its current and future land use. The gap between the Dillard Station as proposed and the Transit Center Station as proposed by GoTriangle misses over 1 million sf of existing office space, the Durham Performing Arts Center, and the ballpark, not to mention that this spacing does not provide citizens convenient access to government buildings including the Durham Courthouse, Detention Center and City Hall Plaza, which frankly should be considered a matter of social justice.

The Durham City Council has written a letter encouraging GoTriangle to try and accommodate the Durham Area Designers plan for station locations, attached. I feel strongly getting LRT right in Durham requires that GoTriangle relocate the Buchanan and Transit Center Stations to the west—including working to save portions of the existing warehouse along Buchanan to create a unique neighborhood transit center and using GoTriangle land at Chapel Hill and Duke Street to create true intermodal center that connects the bus, light rail, commuter trains and Amtrak—and, most importantly, revert to its original plan to having Center City Station in front of DPAC. Durham Area Designers has provided an engineering plan showing how this can be done and meet all of GoTriangle's engineering parameters.

This system is being planned for the long-term future and consideration of the City's best interests over GoTriangle's engineering expediency is critical to both the functionality of the light rail and future of Durham.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions,

Elizabeth Wilcox

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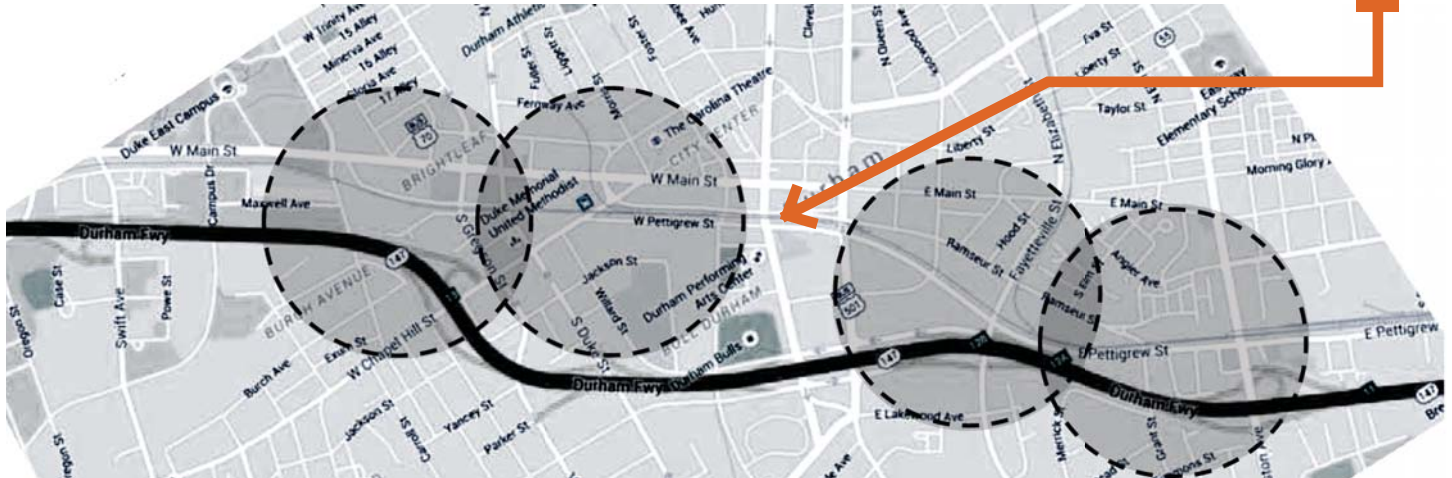
Attachments:  [151008\\_DAD\\_Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project-2.pdf](#)

 [Downtown Transit Station Plan Detail 9.30.15.pdf](#)  [Downtown Transit Station PP 9.28.15.pdf](#)

Concept for “Short Walk” areas around transit Stations  
(1/4 mile or a 5-minute walk from center of station platform)

# GoTriangle Recommended

Key buildings without service include; the Durham County Courthouse, Detention Center, City Hall, DPAC, DBAP, 21C, The Durham Hotel and many crucial Main Street businesses.



Buchanan Station

Downtown Transit Center Station

Dillard Station

Alston Station (West)

# D.A.D. Recommended



Buchanan Station

Downtown Transit Center Station

City Center Station

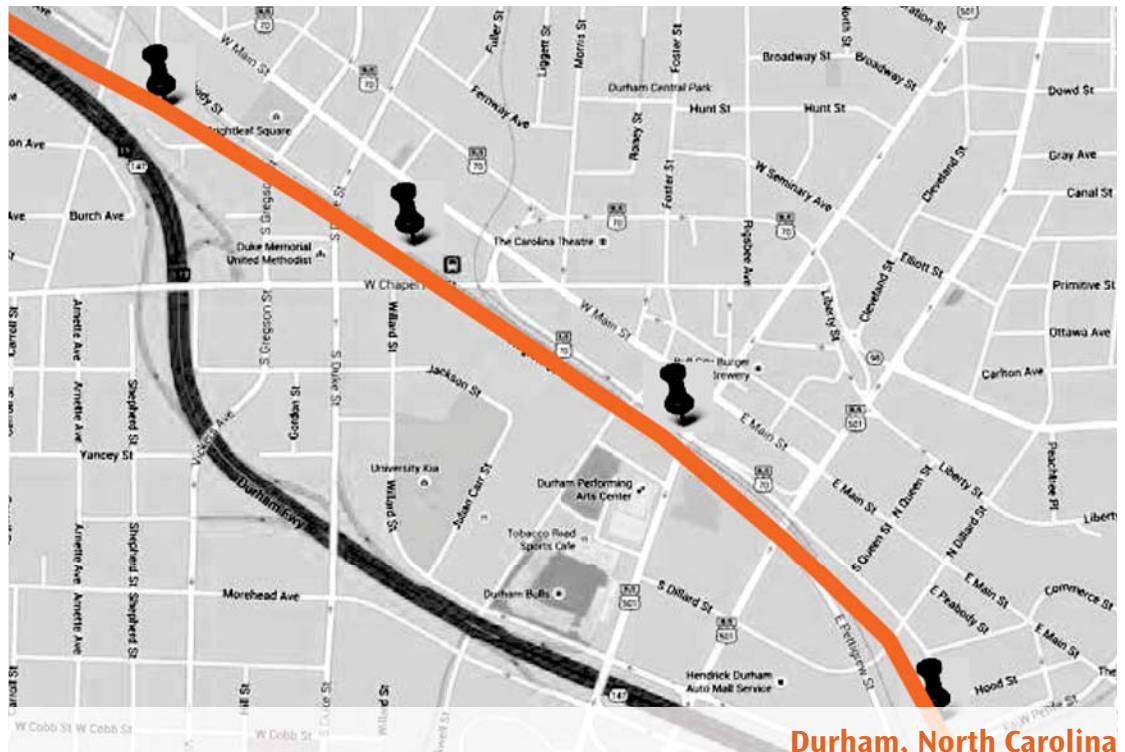
Dillard Station

Alston Station (East)



**Denver** - four stations over a distance of 4,000 feet.

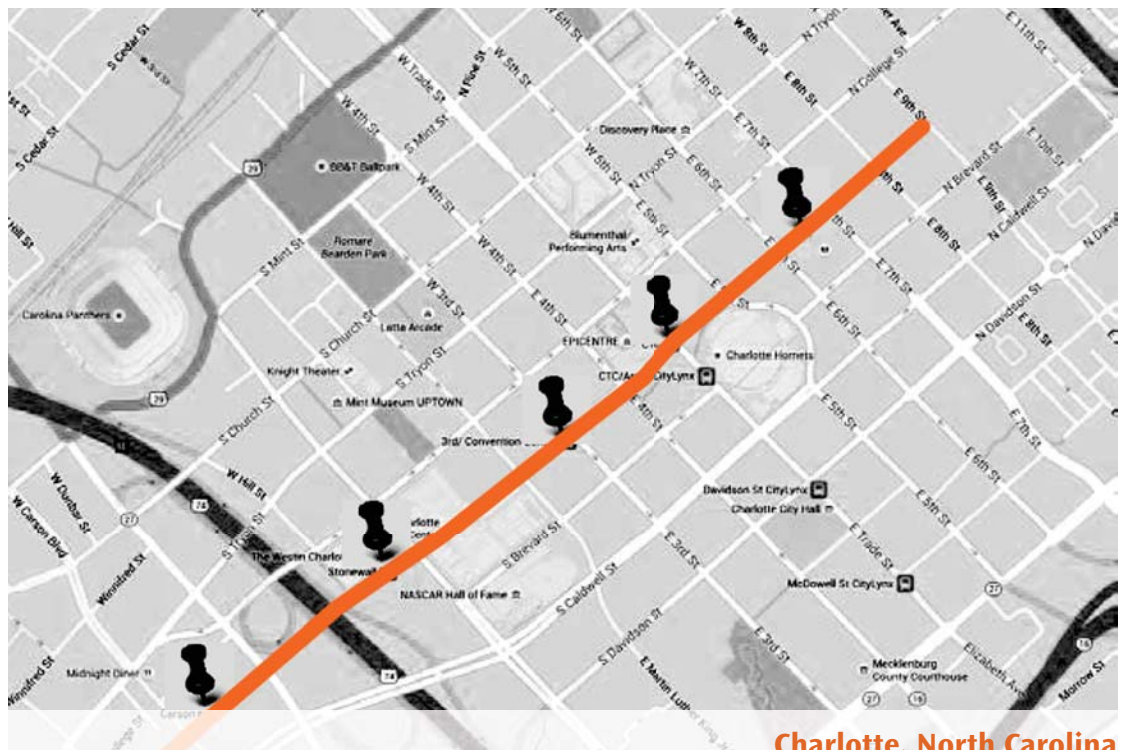
**Minneapolis** - four stations over a distance of 4,000 feet



**Durham, North Carolina**

**DAD recommends four stations over a distance of 6,300 feet. Other cities have done this too.**

**Salt Lake City** - four stations over a distance of 5,300 feet.



**Charlotte, North Carolina**

**Charlotte (Opposite)** - four stations over a distance of 3,500 feet (note a fifth closely spaced station).

**By adding the City Center Station to the LRT route and shifting the Buchan and Transit Center Stations to the west, a total of 109 buildings in 3.4 M square feet are served within the 1/4 mile short walk radius. This results in a 48% increase over GoTriangle's proposal.**



**Durham Area Designers strongly supports Building Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project.**

**Also supportive of the other 4 “key decisions” recommended by GoTriangle in the DEIS:**

- Duke/VA Station
- New Hope Creek Crossing
- Little Creek Crossing
- Rail Operations & Maintenance Facility

**Modify station designs in the FEIS to better serve project purpose and need:**

- Better station spacing and access for Downtown
- Shift the Buchanan station closer to Buchanan Blvd.
- Restore the Downtown Transit Center station to the original GoTriangle-owned site
- Add the City Center station as recommended by all 3 DAD charrette teams in October 2014
- Reach more people and preserve future expansion for East Durham
- Restore the Alston station to the original GoTriangle-owned site east of Alston Avenue

**Key Points**

- Does not conflict with any of the “5 key DEIS decisions”
- Technically feasible

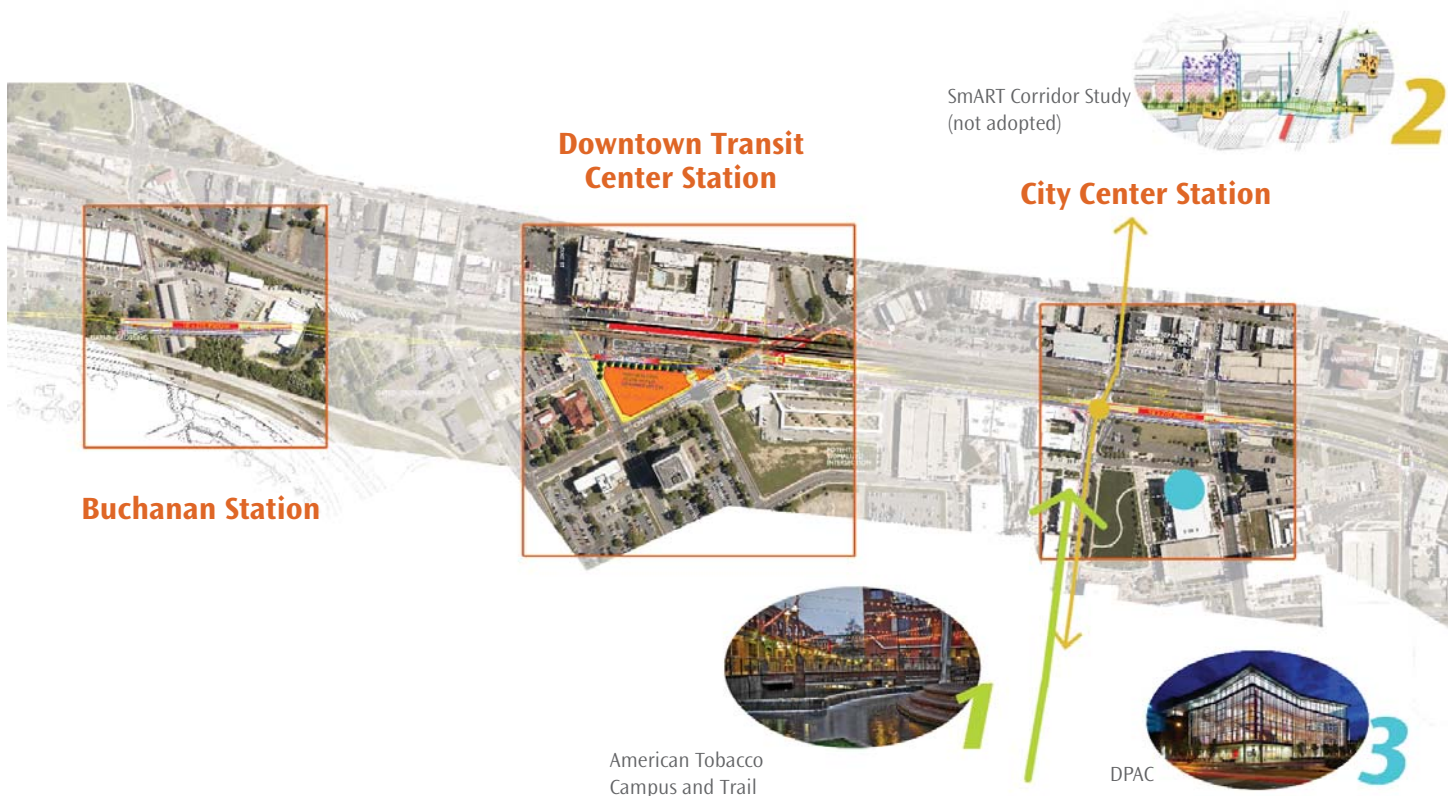
- Responds positively to public desires
- No impact on cost-effectiveness rating (except Alston where impact is unknown)
- No added NCRR encroachment (Alston lessens planned encroachment)
- Insignificant travel time impacts (better total travel time for City Center users)
- Uses existing GoTriangle-owned sites
- Provides transit access to key government buildings, Durham County Courthouse, Detention Center and City Hall, DPAC, DBAP, downtown business, hotels and shops excluded by the GT proposal.

**Shift Alston Station from West to East:**

- Serves East Durham better, especially south of NC 147 with the walking/cycling bridge
- Creates the potential for extension to Durham Tech rather than being trapped in NCRR right-of-way.
- This will cost more (but Durham gets more!)

**The Bottom Line: Better station spacing and access for downtown and reaching more people and preserving future extension for East Durham.**

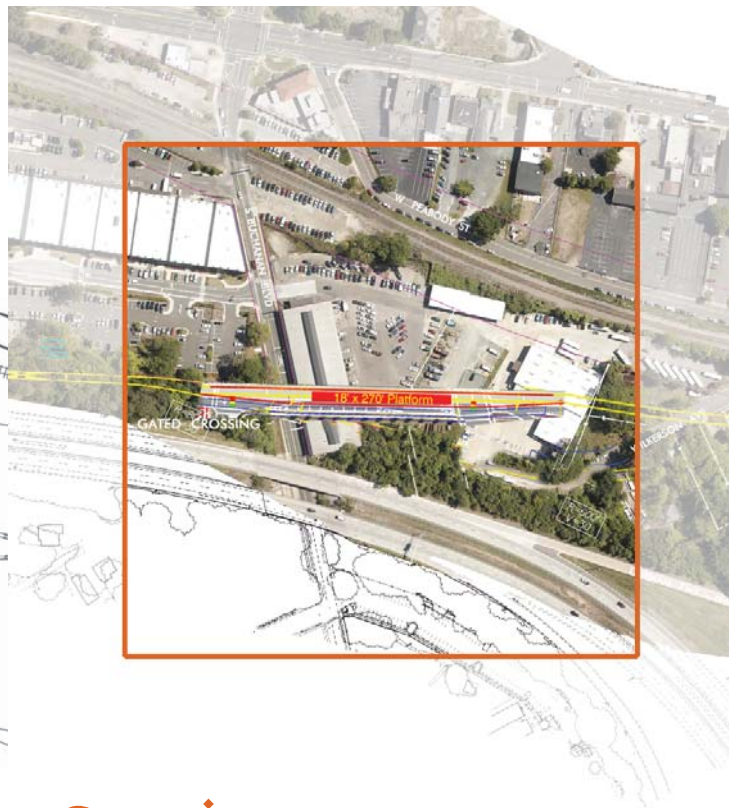
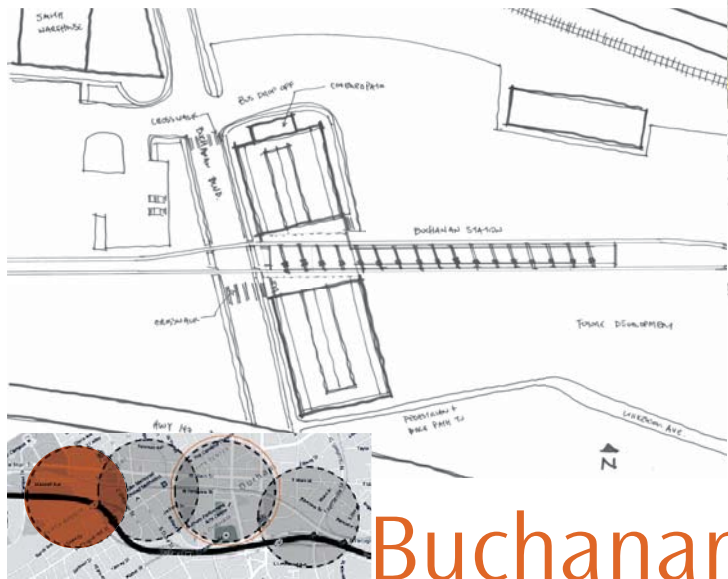
**Fully supports Durham-Orange LRT - and improves it!**



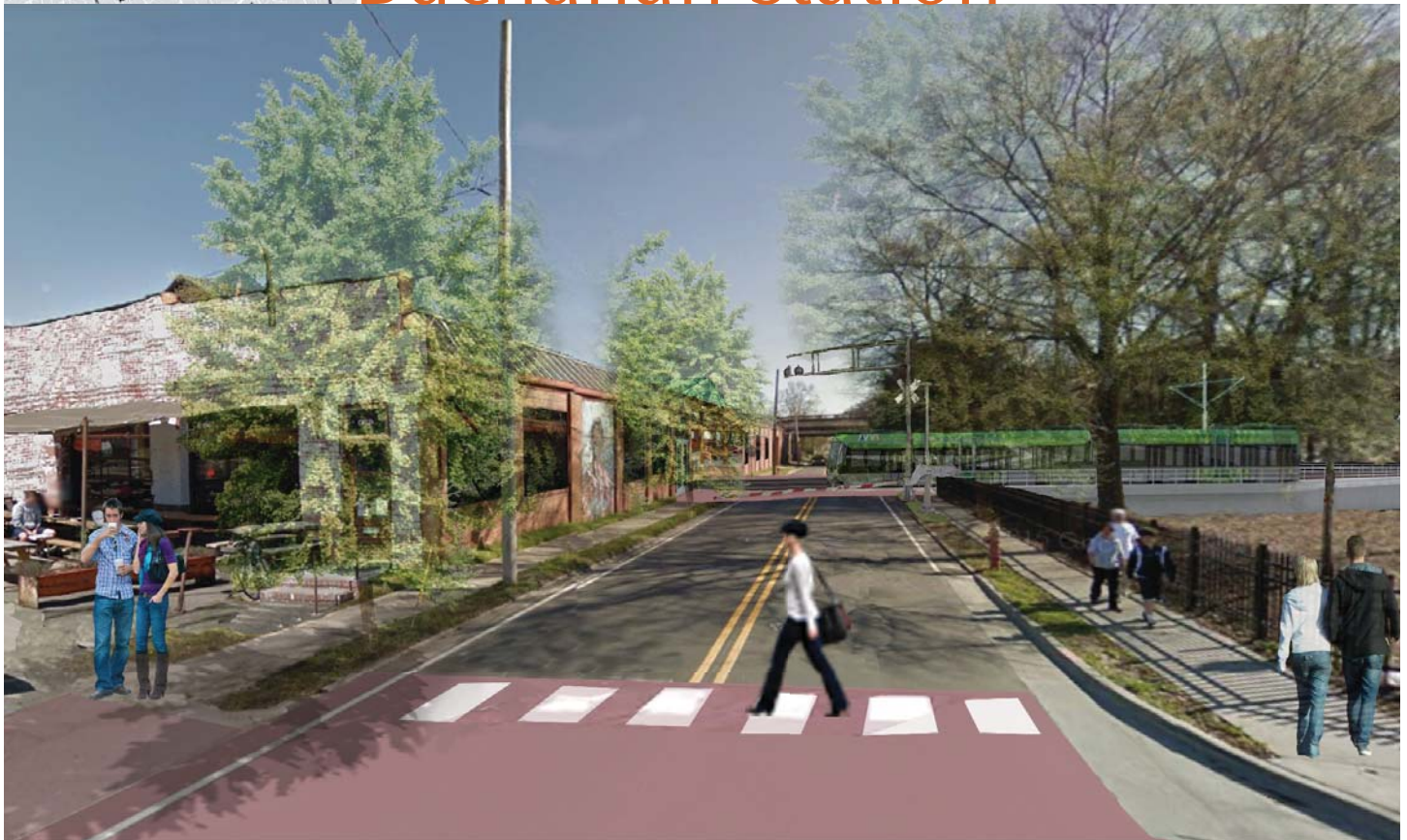


- Uses rather than destroys brick warehouse
- Preserves more of site for TOD
- Better station visibility for Burch Avenue, West End, Trinity Park and West Chapel Hill Street businesses

### Conceptual Plan



## Buchanan Station





- Creates a visible western gateway to downtown
- Better serves Brightleaf, the Innovation District and West Village
- Maintains easy bus transfer, improved access with planned pedestrian bridge
- Location provides better intermodal connection to current intercity and planned commuter rail

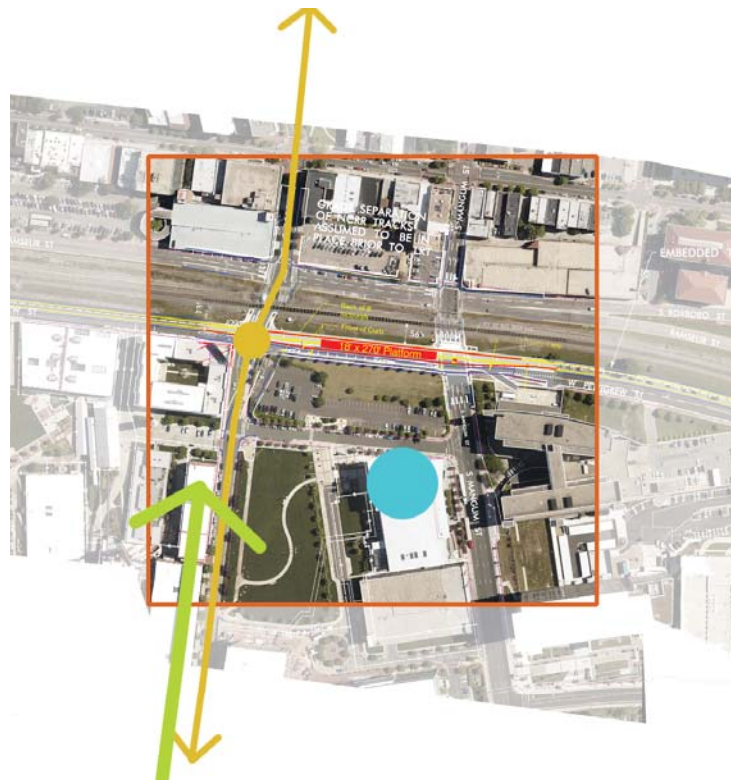


## Downtown Transit Center





- Serves heart of downtown, including City Hall, the County Courthouse, Detention Center, DPAC, DBAP, 21C, the Durham Hotel, Main Street businesses and American Tobacco Campus
- Arts corridor becomes downtown gateway instead of dark, narrow underpass
- Provides highly visible, direct access for the heart of Durham's downtown.
- The inclusion of this station was recommended by all three charrette teams (held October 25, 2014).



## City Center Station

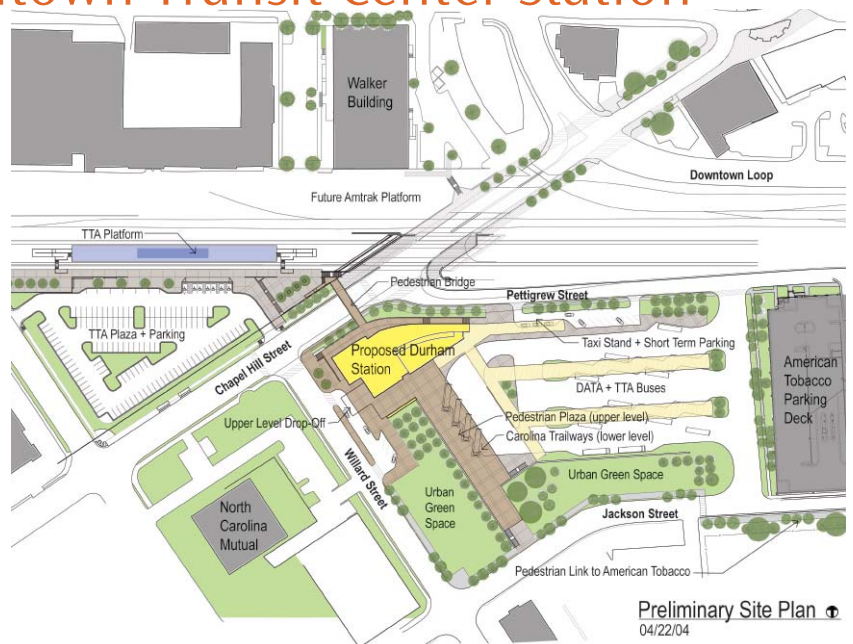




# Appendix A Downtown Transit Center Station



# Appendix B Downtown Transit Center Station



**Initial Site Plan Concept**  
Courtesy of Freelon Group /  
Perkins and Will



## Appendix D Downtown Transit Center Station



Durham Area  
Designers, Inc.







# Appendix E

## Downtown Office/Government Buildings That Would Be Served by City Center Station That Are Not Served Under GT Proposed Station Locations Within Short Walk Zone

Building Address	Building Name	Property Type	Building Class	Year Built	Rentable Building Area
100 E Parrish St	Chancellor Building	Office	B		16812
100 W Morgan St		Office	C	1986	11896
101 City Hall Plaza	City Hall				?
101 E Main St	Mason's Lodge	Office	B	1970	14062
101 E Morgan St		Office	B	1983	5914
101-103 W Main St	Kress Bldg	Office	B	1930	24500
102 E Main St	K & M Building	Office	B	1920	10000
104 City Hall Plz		Office	B	1920	15255
104 E Main St		Office	C	1920	2332
108 City Hall Plz		Office	C	1964	21789
108 W Parrish St		Office	B	1920	2113
109 N Church St		Office	C	1920	5570
112 E Main St		Office	C	1920	1883
113 Orange St	Orange Street Mall	Office	C	1923	6972
114 E Main St		Office	C	1920	1696
114-116 W Parrish St	Mechanics & Farmers Bank Bldg	Office	B	1960	58000
116 W Main St		Office	C	1924	5128
119 Orange St	Orange Street Mall	Office	C	1923	20000
120 E Parrish St	Law Building	Office	C		10979
121 E Parrish St	Clayton & Myrick Building	Office	C	1910	5330
122 E Parrish St		Office	C	1920	9000
125 Orange St		Office	C	1900	3057
201 N Church St		Office	C	1910	3500
201 N Roxboro St	Commerce Bldg-Judicial Annex	Office	C	1975	19015
205 N Church St		Office	C	1900	2854
207 N Church St		Office	C	1900	3200
211 Rigsbee Ave		Office	B	1938	7920
216 Rigsbee Ave		Office	C	1936	4169
219 S Mangum Street	Durham County Detention Center				?
280 S Mangum St	Diamond View II	Office	A	2008	156000
300 Fuller St	Power House Bldg - West Village	Office	B	1926	25000
316-318 Holland St		Office	C	1925	7000
321 E Chapel Hill St	Perry Building	Office	C	1914	5605
323 E Chapel Hill St	US Post Office	Office	B	1932	38864
323 Foster St	Triangle Biotechnology Center	Office	B	2001	20000
359 Blackwell St	Diamond View III	Office	A	2013	133000
401 N Mangum St	The Reinhardt Building	Office	B	1916	6568
407 N Mangum St		Office	C	1916	5628
409 E Chapel Hill St		Office	C	1923	2497
415 E Chapel Hill St		Office	B	1920	2080
510 Dillard St	Durham County Justice Center	Office	A	1994	397382
518-524 S Duke St		Office	C	1987	7119
605 Jackson St		Office	C	1930	1064









